RYLZ 2 00658-1

PATENT

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THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

INVENTOR(S)

John S. Murphy, et al.

TITLE

BAGLESS CANISTER VACUUM

CLEANER

APPLICATION NO.

: 10/790.304

FILED

March 1, 2004

CONFIRMATION NO.

9303

EXAMINER

Jason M. Greene

ART UNIT

1724

LAST OFFICE ACTION

July 20,2004

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.

RYLZ 2 00658-1

Cleveland, OH 44114

August 27, 2004

PETITION FOR CLAIM OF BENEFIT OF PRIOR FILED APPLICATION UNDER 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3)

MAIL STOP PETITION Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

A specific reference to a prior application required by 35 U.S.C. §120 and 37 C.F.R. §1.78 9a)(2)(iii) was omitted from the specification of this continuation application.

Applicant respectfully petitions for the application to be accorded the benefit, as a continuation of U.S. Application Serial No. 09/944,731 filed August 31, 2001, and to claim the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/230,287 filed September 1, 2000.

Reference to the claim of benefit to Provisional Application No. 60/230,287 was listed in the specification. However, the priority of U.S. Application Serial No. 09/944,731 was claimed only on the transmittal sheet and was not mentioned in the specification. As a result, the relationship of the present application to its parent was not specified in the specification of the instant application.

Applicant submits that the entire delay in submitting the claim in the proper form was unintentional. The omission was brought to the Applicants' attention in an Office Action, mailed over four months after the filing of the Application.

Applicants therefore request that the first paragraph of the specification be amended, as follows:

This application is a continuation of U.S. Application Serial No. 09/944,731 filed August 31, 2001, and claims priority from and hereby expressly incorporates by reference commonly owned U.S. provisional application No. 60/230,287 filed September 1, 2000.

Applicants enclose a check in the amount of \$130.00 for the filing of the within petition. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. <u>06-0308</u>.

Respectfully submitted,

FAY, SHARPE, FAGAN, MINNICH & McKEE, LLP

Jay F. Moldovanyi, Reg. No. 29,678 Ann M. Skerry, Reg. No. 45,655 1100 Superior Avenue, 7th Floor Cleveland, OH 44114-2579 216/861-5582

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING I certify that this Preliminary Amendment is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class mail under 37 C.F.R. § 1.8, addressed to: MAIL STOP PETITION, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date indicated below. transmitted via facsimile under 37 C.F.R. § 1.8 on the date indicated below. deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. 1.10 on the date indicated below and is addressed to: MAIL STOP Commissioner For Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. Express Mail Label No.: Date Nancy M. Grams

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